(9) He has no previous experience in this Department.

(10) No, and hence no action was taken.

(11) Yes. It was sent to me for remarks and on my recommendation the Diwan was pleased to cancel the dismissal order and grant him the pension he is entitled to under the rules.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(8). The answer is '23'. There were 23 peons already in the service who had put in five months. I want to know why a new man was appointed.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—They were in the service and as such no injustice was done to them.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was not this peon made permanent?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—No.

Auction sales in the Excise Department.

249. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly lay on the Table statistics showing the results of the auction sales conducted up-to-date by the present Superintendent of Excise since he became the Superintendent or in his immediate presence, quoting against each the results of similar auction sales conducted by the Superintendent or in his immediate presence in the years 1102 and 1103?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Vide table appended (*Appendix I.*).

Excise Committee Report.

250. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government have passed orders on the report of the Excise Committee;

(b) what is the delay in passing the orders;

(c) whether the report will be submitted for the consideration of the Legislative Council before orders are passed by the Government thereon; and if not, what is the reason for not doing it?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(a) No.

(b) and (c). The report is under the consideration of the Government. So also is the question of placing it in the Council before orders are passed on it.

251. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how long it has been since the Excise Committee submitted its report to the Government;

(b) what action has been taken by the Government on the report;

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